



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 MARCH 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Cyprus

The rotation of the Turkish detachment on Cyprus so far has proceeded without incident.

Eyewitnesses in Alexandria report that Soviet SAM equipment was being unloaded today from the Greek freighter Constantis Bousses. This equipment had been destined for Cyprus, but the vessel has been held in Alexandria for the past two weeks on orders issued by Athens at US urging.

The Greek defense minister has said he would do his best to prevent the SAMs from reaching Cyprus, but implied that he might not be able to keep the Greek Cypriots in line on this matter. The defense minister said that Greek Cypriots would probably be sent to the UAR for training on the missiles.

2. Congo

Col. Hoare has taken Aba, and this should all but choke off the supply of weapons to the rebels via Sudan. (See map.) Many rebels are still at large in the northeast. Their morale is low, however, and the news of Aba's fall will further discourage them.

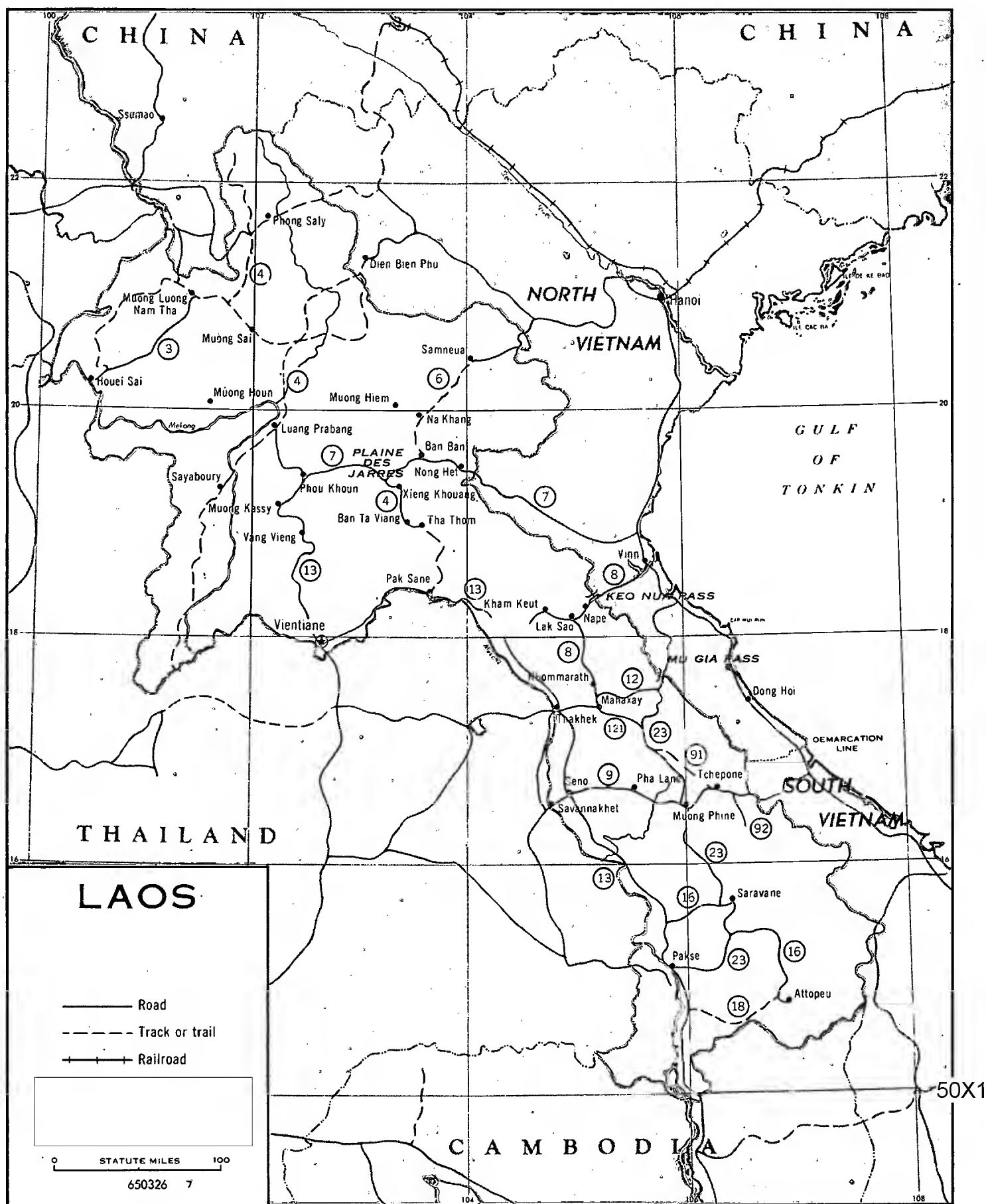
The presence of Congolese Government troops on the border will cause considerable uneasiness in Khartoum.

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3. British Guiana

Premier Burnham's government is threatened by a bitter dispute over tax policy between Burnham and his principal coalition partner, Peter D'Aguiar. The two are long-time political opponents, but they both hate ex-Premier Jagan more. This should keep the coalition afloat for the time being.

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4. USSR

The new agricultural plan announced by Brezhnev last week is the first major economic move by the post-Khrushchev leadership. In essence, it represents a relatively hard-headed and long-overdue attack on some persistent agricultural problems.

Khrushchev's reliance on administrative reorganizations and panaceas like the corn program has given way to a recognition that massive investment is necessary over several years. Moreover, the leadership has acknowledged that the resources necessary for this program can only be provided by cutting budgetary allocations to other priority claimants.

While Brezhnev did not specify where the cuts would come, a further moderate decline in the rate of industrial growth seems probable. Also, it is possible that certain military hardware procurement schedules will have to be adjusted downward. We do not expect outlays for military research and development to be affected.

5. Laos

Exiled General Phoumi's rightist supporters are still in control of Thakhek in central Laos. (See map.) They have plans to expand this foothold north to the Pak Sane area and south to Savannakhet and Pakse. So far, the commanders there have not rallied to the Phoumi cause, and the government is moving to reinforce them. These events again open the Vientiane regime to Communist attack.

6. UK

Wilson's visit to Paris later this week. The prime minister plans to emphasize the advantages of Anglo-French cooperation in the computer and aviation industries, and he may find the French receptive. Wilson will also make a bid for Britain's inclusion in West European talks on political union and defense matters.

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7. Vietnam

In South Vietnam the lull in Viet Cong terrorist and military activity continues. There are some indications that a new attack may be brewing in the northern province of Binh Dinh.

Although Premier Quat has voiced concern about a possible coup effort during Ambassador Taylor's absence, both the Buddhist and Catholic hierarchies have moved to ease pressure on his government. The Buddhist leadership has warned Buddhist youths against taking part in pacifist activity, while top Catholics have issued orders to all priests to take no part in demonstrations or coup plots.

8. Yemen

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